

smiles and looks back at him.] Lord Augustus!
 Won't you
 see me to my carriage? You might carry the
 fan.

Lord Windermere. Allow me!

Mrs. Erlynne. No; I want Lord Augustus. I
 have a special
 message for the dear Duchess. Won't you
 carry the fan?
 Lord Augustus?

Lord Augustus. If you really desire it, Mrs.
 Erlynne.

Mrs. Erlynne. [Laughing] Of course I do.

You'll carry it so
 gracefully. You would carry off anything
 gracefully, dear
 Lord Augustus.

*[When she reaches the door she looks back for a
 moment at*

*Lady Windermere. Their eyes meet. Then
 she turns,*

and exit C followed by Lord Augustus.

Lady Windermere. You will never speak against
 Mrs. Erlynne

again, Arthur, will you?

Lord Windermere. [Gravely] She is better than
 one thought her.

Lady Windermere. She is better than I am.

*Lord Windermere. [Smiling as he strokes her
 hair]* Child, you

and she belong to different worlds. Into
 your world evil
 has never entered,

Lady Windermere. Don't say that, Arthur.

There is the same
 world for all of us, and good and evil, sin and
 innocence, go
 through it hand in hand. To shut one's eyes
 to half of life
 that one may live securely is as though one
 blinded oneself
 that one might walk with more safety in a
 land of pit and
 precipice.

Lord Windermere. [Moves down with her.] Darling,
 why do you
 say that?

Lady Windermere. [Sits on sofa] Because I, who
 had shut my
 eyes to life, came to the brink. And one who
 had separated

Lord Windermere. We were never separated.

Lady Windermere. We never must be again. O
 Arthur, don't
 love me less, and I will trust you more. I will
 trust you
 absolutely. Let us go to Selby. In the Rose
 Garden at
 Selby the roses are white and red.

Enter Lord Augustus C.

Lord Augustus. Arthur, she has explained
 everything! *[Lady*

Windermere looks horribly frightened at this. Lord

Windermere
starts. Lord Augustus takes Windermere by the
arm and brings
him to front of stage. He talks rapidly and in a
low voice.

Lady Windermere stands watching them in
terror^ My dear